

## Statewide Voter Registration Database Integrity Checks

### Status Report: February, 2006

Through the creation of a statewide voter registration database, Washington's elections community has identified issues with certain voter registration records. These issues are expected and demonstrate the clear need for a single statewide list of registered voters. In partnership with Washington's 39 counties, the Office of Secretary of State is aggressively moving forward to solve problems that have been identified. The circumstances and their solutions are listed below.

**Background:** The Statewide Voter Registration Database is a federal mandate under the *Help America Vote Act* or HAVA passed by the United States Congress to resolve problems that surfaced in Florida after the 2000 Presidential Election. Under HAVA, all states responsible for maintaining voter registration lists were required to build a single statewide database of registered voters by January of 2006. Secretary of State Sam Reed proposed legislation that cleared the way for Washington to build a statewide database before it was required by federal mandate.

The following is a status report for February of 2006:

Issue	Solution
<b>Backlogged duplicates</b> Because no single database existed, the first merger of 39 county voter lists in January of this year resulted in a large number of duplicate registrations. In most cases, the duplicates are caused by voters who move and forget to cancel their old registration records.	Extra staff will be hired to work through the backlog. Effective Date: In Progress
<b>Missing or bad Dates of Birth</b> No voter who registered before 1971 was required to disclose a date of birth. As a result, some registrations have missing or inaccurate birth dates that were entered as placeholders to accommodate voter registration systems.	More than 5400 Washington voters will receive notices in the mail requesting that they supply their birth dates.  Effective Date: In Progress
<b>Missing Signatures</b> Some registration records in the database are missing signatures. In the vast majority of cases, these are available at the county level on paper.	Report by county identifying all records with missing signatures. Signatures will be scanned or voters will be contacted.  Effective Date: In Progress
<b>Invalid Addresses</b> Some voter registration records include invalid addresses such as a P.O. Box or a commercial business.	Voters will be contacted for correct information. The State will obtain special software to quickly identify these invalid addresses.  Effective Date: In Progress
<b>Incomplete Records</b> Legislative and Congressional districts are missing on certain registration records. In the vast majority of cases, the missing information exists at the county level.	We are working with counties to insert this information into the database.  Effective Date: In Progress